

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Various editorial amendments have been made to the specification and abstract. No new matter has been added. A substitute abstract along with a marked-up copy of the substitute abstract are filed herewith.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0225796) in view of Numminen (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0125024). This rejection is traversed and is inapplicable to claims 1-18 as amended herein.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, is directed to a communication system including a first communication terminal, a second communication terminal, and a communication control server. As recited in claim 1, the communication control server stores a permitted-terminal table that shows, for each communication terminal, a correlation between the corresponding communication terminal and one or more connection-permitted communication terminals that are permitted to connect to the corresponding communication terminal. As recited in claim 1, the communication control server includes a terminal determination unit which determines, based on the permitted-terminal table, whether or not a second communication terminal, which has transmitted a request message to the communication control server, is a connection-permitted communication terminal of the first communication terminal. Claim 1 also recites that the communication control server includes a notification control unit operable to notify the second communication terminal of the destination information of the first communication terminal, only when the second communication terminal has been determined to be a connection-permitted communication terminal of the first communication terminal.

Claim 15 includes similar recitations directed to a communication control server.

Moreover, each of claims 6, and 16-18 include recitations that the first communication terminal (referred to as "said" communication terminal in claim 6) makes a request, to the communication control server, to register other communication terminals that are permitted to connect to the first communication terminal. As recited in claims 6, and 16-18, when a second communication terminal, which has requested destination information for specifying an address

of the first communication terminal on the network, is any one of the communication terminals that are permitted to connect to the first communication terminal, the first communication terminal receives authentication information for authenticating the second communication terminal, and receives a connection acceptance request and identification information that identifies the second communication terminal. Claims 6 and 16-18 also recite that the first communication terminal determines whether or not the authentication information and the identification information match, and permits a connection based on the connection acceptance request from the second terminal, only when the authentication information and the identification information match.

Thus, according to the claimed invention as discussed above, the communication control server determines on an individual terminal by terminal basis, whether or not communication between terminals is permitted. Permission for external terminals (i.e., second terminals) to connect to a user's terminal (i.e., first terminal) can be controlled based on the particular needs of each user according to the table stored in the server based on information from the user. So if a second terminal desires to communicate with the user's terminal, the attempted communication is initiated between the second terminal and the server. The second terminal is permitted to communicate with the user's terminal only if allowed by determination of the server. As a result, a user can allow a connection only from a specific party or parties (i.e., "other" or "second" communication terminals that the user has registered in the server's permitted-terminal table) and can prevent a connection from an unintended party in advance because the denial of permission for connection is made by the communication control server without the unintended terminal ever communicating directly with the user's terminal.

The Examiner acknowledges that the primary reference, Matsubara, does not disclose a permitted-terminal table storage unit or notification control unit from which the server decides if a second terminal should be granted communication access to a first communication terminal. The Examiner points out that the secondary reference, Numminen, teaches a database storing ID's of terminals outside the network which are allowed access to the network, and an access control unit that receives an ID of an access-requesting terminal, checks whether the ID is in the database, and grants access by such access-requesting terminal to the network if the ID is in the database.

The Examiner asserts that combining the teachings of Numminen with that of Matsubara would have been obvious, and would have resulted in the claimed invention. However, the inventions recited in claims 1-18 would not result from a combination of the teachings of Matsubara and Numminen because neither reference discloses or suggests the terminal by terminal access management recited in claims 1, 6, and 15-18. Numminen only teaches controlling a connection of a network-external terminal to the entire network, but not any of the terminal by terminal features of the present invention. Thus, neither reference discloses or suggests a permitted-terminal table that shows, for each of one or more corresponding communication terminals, a correlation between the corresponding communication terminal and one or more connection-permitted communication terminals that are permitted to connect to the corresponding communication terminal according to information received from the communication terminals as recited in claims 1 and 15. Neither reference discloses or suggests any terminal making a request, to a communication control server, to register other communication terminals that are permitted to connect to the communication terminal as recited in claims 6, and 15-18. Moreover, neither reference discloses or suggests that any terminal performs the authentication information reception, identification information reception, the determination of whether or not the authentication information and the identification information match, or the connection control based thereon as particularly recited in claims 6, and 15-18.

Because of the distinctions discussed above, no combination of Matsubara and Numminen would result in, or otherwise render obvious, the inventions recited in claims 1-18.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0225796) in view of Numminen (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0125024), and further in view of Ando (U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0047624). This rejection is traversed and is inapplicable to claim 10 as amended herein.

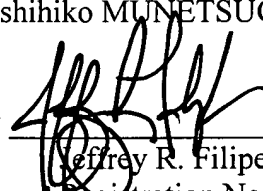
The Ando reference was relied on by the Examiner for teaching extraction of I-pictures. Since Ando does not remedy the lack of disclosure by Matsubara and Numminen of the invention recited in base claim 6 as discussed in detail above, no combination of Ando with Matsubara and Numminen would result in the invention recited in claim 10. Thus, it is submitted that claim 10 would not have been obvious in view of any combination of Matsubara, Numminen, and Ando.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 1-18 are allowable over the prior art of record, and that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Abstract

A communication ~~systems (100) comprises~~ system includes first
and second terminals ~~(103, 104)~~ and an intermediate server ~~(101)~~ that
notifies destination information for determining the address of the
5 | ~~second communication terminal on the network.~~ The first terminal
~~(103)~~ transmits to the intermediate server ~~(101)~~ a request message
for requesting the destination information. The intermediate server
~~(101)~~ comprises a storage unit ~~(206)~~ that ~~has stored~~ stores a
permitted-terminal table indicative of correspondence between the
10 | second terminal ~~(104)~~ and a terminal permitted to be connected with
the second terminal ~~(104)~~; a reception unit ~~(203)~~ for receiving the
request message; and a control part ~~(201)~~ for determining, based on
the permitted-terminal table, whether the first terminal ~~(103)~~ that
has transmitted the received request message is a terminal permitted,
15 | by the second terminal ~~(104)~~, to be connected with the second
terminal ~~(104)~~, and for notifying the first terminal ~~(103)~~ of the
destination information of the second terminal ~~(104)~~ only if the
first terminal ~~(103)~~ is a terminal permitted to be connected with the
second terminal ~~(104)~~.

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